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**NEZ-PERCES**

**FIRST BOOK:**

**DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN AND NEW BEGINNERS.**



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**CLEAR WATER:**

**MISSION PRESS.**

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**1839.**

**ALPHABET.**

<b>A</b>	pronounced as <i>a</i> in father.
<b>C</b>	“ as <i>a</i> in man.
<b>D</b>	“ as <i>e</i> in men.
<b>E</b>	“ as <i>e</i> in he.
<b>F</b>	“ as <i>u</i> in hut.
<b>G</b>	“ as <i>a</i> in name.
<b>H</b>	“ as in English.
<b>I</b>	“ as <i>i</i> in pin.
<b>J</b>	only used in proper names.
<b>K</b>	} pronounced as in English.
<b>L</b>	
<b>M</b>	
<b>N</b>	
<b>O</b>	“ as <i>ou</i> in south.
<b>P</b>	“ as in English.
<b>Q</b>	“ as <i>qu</i> in question.
<b>R</b>	“ as <i>i</i> in time.
<b>S</b>	} “ as in English.
<b>T</b>	
<b>U</b>	“ as <i>oo</i> in moon.
<b>V</b>	“ as <i>o</i> in note.
<b>W</b>	“ as in English.
<b>X</b>	“ as <i>ew</i> in new.
<b>Y</b>	“ as <i>y</i> in you.

AYER  
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ah eh rh vh uh fh gh ch dh ih oh xh

al el rl vl ul fl gl cl dl il ol xl

am em rm vm um fm gm cm dm im om xm

an en rn vn un fm gn cn dn in on xn

ap ep rp vp uc fu gp cp dp ip op xp

as es rs vs us fs gs cs ds is os xs

at et rt vt ut ft gt ct dt it ot xt

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### HIMTCKCSH I.

*Naks ne washolekit.*

A

Cks

Chks

Em

En

Him

Hipsh

Kfl

Kvhs

Kus

Ke

Kum



Mrh	Mfs	Mcks	Lfh
Nun	Peps	Pesh	Prsh
Pisht	Paps	Pflh	Shvh
Shamh	Shith	Shesh	Tvh
Tahs	Taks	Timsh	Tin
Tet	Tscp	Tiks	Tahsh

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## HIMTCKCSH II.

*Ldpet waskvlekit.*

A tim	Ah wa	Csh a	C ten
A a	E tit	E tish	En im
Ha has	Ha ma	Ha ham	Hu shus
Hu ku	He kr	Ho tct	Him en
Him tvh	Hesh in	Hct su	Hc yih
Hc shu	Hik tek	Ho is	In wim
Ca mesh	Is kit	Ish kep	R ft
Kfl a	Kg la	Ka has	Kuts kuts
Kup kup	Kim te	Kem tdm	Kah nv
Kr yi	La ka	La kfs	La tis
Lv kfs	Mc ka	Mch shem	Min a



Nu kft	Nck a	Nush nu	Nuh shit
Nch shcp	Nu kin	Al a	At wr
Am a	Fs ep	Pe chs	Pap r
Pap a	Pv hvl	Pes kct	Qr fs
Qfs qfs	Shck tit	Sr v	Shesh nim
Te mis	Taks pul	Tu a	Tu yc
Tv ycm	Tv hvn	Ta mfm	Ta lfm
Ta pul	Tim r	Tit mr	Tik im

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HIMTCKCSH III.

*Kapish halih waskvekit.*

E net	E met	E lvt	E shenm
In pim	Ka hal	Kv kal	Ka lvn
Ku nv	Kv mrs	Kv pip	Ke kct
Ka kct	Krh krh	Kuush tet	Kush pu
Ko v	Lfm tr	La am	La hr
Me ahs	Mlks mtk	Na sv	Ko shft
Kcp shseh	Kc pish	Kcps kcps	Kip kip
Tis ko	Sc met	Ip shus	Yvs yvs
Mvl mvl	So wet	Tv pcs	E she

## HIMTCKCSH IV.



*Ke hewcsh Takmahl.*

1839 TAKMAHL dnpitem. Dnpite takmahl.  
 Enchnim takmahl. Etunm ke takmahl?  
 Shep nim tchr: koa tatvsh tahspulm tchr,  
 koa tatvsh kalashahnim tchr, koa tatvsh pfp-  
 teshnim tchr. Tahs takmahl koa watu kymrs  
 hushus. Koa watu elatenushksh. Salawe sro  
 takmahl koa elatenushksh; taks enet pa asu,  
 koa taks takmahl nekaqalku; tinuish tatvsh  
 takmahl, yvh tahs, cnimrn. Koa tatvsh pc-  
 kfshnim takmahl, yvh he tahs, trfmrn, yvis  
 koa watu hemuhlesa.

Eshen panaa kinea takmahlna wdpsuhnim?  
 Kfla panaks wdpsuh tetvkan. Watu uyi-  
 kflan tetvkan pasukuisa.

***Nez-Perces First Book: Designed For Children And New Beginners.*** was the first book printed in the Pacific Northwest, a primer written by Presbyterian missionary Henry Harmon Spalding in an alphabetical system of his own devising. Published in May of 1839, four hundred copies of the eight page book were printed at Spalding's mission at Clear Water (present-day Lapwai, Idaho) on a Ramage model number 14 press which had been shipped west from Boston, 'round the horn, to the Sandwich Islands (present-day Hawaii) in 1834. In 1839 the press was sent east from Honolulu by the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions with a printer, Edwin Oscar Hall, to Fort Vancouver. By horseback it was packed along the Columbia river, to the Dalles, and overland to Lapwai, the Nez Perce word for "place of the but-terflies." Shortly after publication, the limitations of Spalding's alphabet were realized and the edition was discarded. Work on a new version commenced.

The twenty-page ***Nez-Perces First Book*** published in August of 1839 was thought to be the first book published in the Pacific Northwest until 1914, when Wilberforce Eames of the New York Public Library discovered that backing or reinforcing pages had been inserted between the covers of the twenty page edition. These pages proved to be from the discarded eight

page first ***First Book***. Since 1914, some or all of pages 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been found embedded in some copies of the second edition. Copies of pages 3 and 4 have never been discovered.

This reprint of the first book published in the Pacific Northwest on what is now the oldest surviving press in the American West is a keepsake publication commemorating the dedication of the Idaho Center for the Book at the Hemingway Western Studies Center at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, 9 April 1994. It is a collation of two copies. Pages 1, 2, 7 and 8 have been generously provided by the Massachusetts Historical Society Library; page 6 is courtesy of the Houghton Library at Harvard University. The upper two-thirds of page 5 is from the Historical Society, the lower third from the Houghton.

Cooperation of the head of Special Collections at Oberlin College Library and advice of the Curator of Western Americana at the Beinecke Library at Yale University have also facilitated publication of this facsimile.

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